GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1406
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016
Protection of Rhinos
Ajmal Shri Sirajuddin

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects/schemes implemented for conservation of 'One Horned Rhino' in the country;
(b) the impact of these projects/schemes in increasing the population of Rhinos in the country, Sanctuary and State/UT-wise;
(c) whether any shortcoming has been identified in the said schemes and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) whether the Government has taken note of killing of Rhinos at predictable interval in Kaziranga of Assam and if so, the preventive steps taken/being taken so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) The Ministry provides financial assistance to State/UT Government under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for protection of wild animals including one horned rhinos and their habitats. Most of the Rhino habitats are part of Tiger Reserves- Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, Manas Tiger Reserve, Dudhwa Tiger Reserve and Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park notified under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Others have been declared as Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks- Jaldapara National Park, Gorumara National Park, Katernighat Wildlife Sanctuary and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.

(b) Rhinos are found in the State of Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. The inputs given have resulted in increase in number of Rhino population in the States of Assam, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Sanctuary-wise details of rhino population in Assam, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal is given in the Annexure.

(c) No sir.

(d) Yes Sir. Government of India is seized with this menace and has taken a number of steps for protection of Rhinos in Kaziranga. The steps taken for protection of rhino in Kaziranga National Park is given below:

(a) A Rhino Task Force has been created for suggesting measures to strengthen rhino protection in the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (Rhino Task Force has submitted its report and suggested actions for control of poaching etc.).
(b) In-principle approval has been accorded for creation of Special Rhino Protection Force at Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
(c) Fostering a voluntary group "Friends for Rhino" for eliciting public support for rhino conservation with active local participation around Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
(d) CBI investigation in rhino poaching cases handed over by the State of Assam.
(e) Supporting health insurance to field staff- Approved by the technical committee of the NTCA to constitute a revolving fund for Rs. 20 Lakhs which shall be reimbursed on a case to case basis.
(f) Forest officers are given power for using fire arms under Section 197 (2) of CrPc in Assam.
(g) Installation of 24x7 hours electronic eye surveillance system to monitor the wild animals and other related issues in the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve. Anti Rhino Poaching Task Force was constituted, headed by Additional Director General of Police, STF, Assam.

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